in his "brilliant eye" already. Who, then, is he? To this question we shall allow the *Home Journal* to reply in its own way, merely noting, that although Jonathan stands in proper awe of his big engineering brother in "the old country," he can stand up to his little Canadian one and pummel him to his heart's content.

"Why Canadians are 'slow,' and Yankees 'fast,' is a political question into which we do not enter; but the fact is evident to every one, Canadian or Yankee, that crosses the line. At St. John's, in New Brunswick, a suspension bridge is in course of construction, 'the credit of which,' says the *St. John's News* [Canadian itself, of course], 'is due wholly to Americans.' Mr. Serrel, the constructor, is an American engineer. The originator of the scheme is an American, and an American firm is erecting the towers. 'In short,' says the *News*,' we shall be indebted to Jonathan for the beginning, making, and finishing of one of the most spirited and curious undertakings known in America.' Mr. Serrell, the engineer alluded to by the *News*," continues our Yankee friend the *Home Journal*, "is a young New-Yorker, and one of the city surveyors. He has been practically engaged in engineering since he was fourteen years of age, and gained the greater part of his knowledge and skill in out-of-doors conflict with nature. During the years commonly spent in the 'office,' poring over books and making elegant outline drawings of imaginary aqueducts and viaducts, young Serrel was upon the road and in the woods helping to make surveys, bridging rivers, and adjusting railroad curves. Though scarcely twenty-five years of age, he has executed several important and original works;—among others, the famous suspension bridge over the Niagara, at Lewiston,—a remarkable combination of elegance and strength. The bridge at St. John will be 600 feet in length, and suspended 100 feet above the river. From our personal knowledge of Mr. Serrel's ingenuity, energy, perseverance, and caution, we hasard little in bestowing upon him the prospective title of the American Brunel."

Apropos of engineering works, we may here state that the harbour, and the prosperity of one of the most thriving and intelligent cities in the States, namely, Boston, appears to be in rather a perilous position. Its channels are constantly filling up and changing as its islands and headlands wear away, and the subject has been taken into serious consideration by the local authorities. A report to Congress has been drawn up, in which the urgent necessity of a large appropriation for its protection and safety is insisted on. Congress, in 1848, in fact did appropriate 40,000 dollars for the protection of the Great Brewster Island, on condition that so much of it should be presented to the United States as might be necessary for that purpose. The city at once purchased the island at great expense, and operations for building the contemplated wall were commenced in 1849, but were suspended for want of funds; and it is estimated that not less than 50,000 dollars are now needed to complete the work, and render of any use what has already been done. The costly fortifications in the harbour, too, have been arranged with a view to command the entrance to the channel as it now runs; and the value and efficiency of these would be vastly diminished or altogether lost, if this channel should become naturally changed by the action of the sea on the various islands.

Building in Boston must be in an active state just now. The *Transcript*, in rather superlative terms for professional discrimination, says,—"We scarcely remember the time when so many first-class buildings were in the progress of erection as now, and a large proportion to accommodate the increasing business of the city. In Merchants'-row, a very splendid block of granite stores are nearly completed. On Commercial-street, another granite block is fast progressing. On Federal-street, extending through to Atkinson-street, a very imposing block of granite stores are soon to be occupied by some of our leading merchants. On the old Theatre estate, the foundations are about laid for one or more of the most elegant and commodious granite stores in the city. On Washington-street, both sides, and in various parts, splendid stores are under contract to be built immediately. On Tremont-street, the 'Temple' is being rebuilt in superb style, more commodious and strong than before, adjoining which, also, an elegant free-stone store is nearly roofed in. On Cornhill, the 'Fifty Associates' are putting up some new and elegant stores. On Exchange-street, massive granite blocks are being raised for the completion of a building designed for banks and insurance offices. On Portland-street, near Haymarket-square, the new granite market and stores are progressing rapidly. On Kilby-street, the Shoe and Leather Dealers' Bank is about erecting a superb freestone building, designed by Arthur Gilman, esq. All these and more are rising up in all directions, taking the places of old and dilapidated buildings, and serving to accommodate the increasing wants of the business community, as well as to beautify and adorn the city."

Sanitary reform is exciting interest in Boston and is making way in New York. As to Boston, the paper just quoted remarks, that "notwithstanding the sanitary advantages to the city, from the introduction of Cochituate water, there is still a lamentable amount of disease engendered by uncleanliness, imperfect drainage, bad ventilation, intramural burials, and other violations of the laws of health;" and that "a sanitary police, with power to compel the abatement of nuisances, would contribute largely to the health of the immigrant class and of the population generally, there being something in the very name of 'sanitary police' suggestive of activities quite inconsistent with sinecureships and idle promenades." For New York such a sanitary police has been already formally recommended in a report by "The standing Committee on Public Health and Legal Medicine of the New York Academy of Medicine." "To do the poor and the public Hygiene full justice," says this report, "the health inspector must penetrate into their private dwellings: he must open the closed sashes and cut windows where there are none: he must ventilate their workshops and their bedrooms and their school-houses: he must pump the stagnant water from their cellars: he must connect their drain pipes and privies with the public sewers, whitewash their walls, fill up their hollows, and drive the troglodytes from their caves to the open air."

The New York and Liverpool Collins line of steamers, as appears from a Government report, have had a compensation grant by Congress of 858,000 dollars per annum, for the last year, in place of 358,000, as heretofore. The increased allowance was voted in the House by a majority of two.

We are further told by this report, with what truth we really do not know, that our own Government, within the space of six years, has derived from the postage on the Liverpool route, so long monopolised by the Cunard steamers, a clear income of no less than five millions two hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred dollars, after deducting the amount paid to the concern under the contract to carry the mails.

From a paper on glass-making in the *New York Herald*, we have picked up the following remarks on the state of the plate and window-glass manufacture in America, and incidentally in Europe also:—

"There are now six factories (of plate-glass for mirrors, &c.) in England, one in Belgium, and a number of little ones in Germany; but French plate-glass has nobly sustained its old renown, and like French silks and French wines, stands at the head of the line. For the last twenty years, the Royal Factory of St. Gobain, and the manufacture of Cirey, have a common agency and depôt at New York; and this establishment supplies the Union with looking-glasses and plate-glass.

The use of large mirrors has become much more fashionable among us; and, in fact, there is no finer decoration for our saloons. The retail stores have made immense advance by the use of plate-glass, and we need but walk along Broadway, to see how generally it has replaced the old-fashioned windows.

American industry has not yet been seriously turned to this manufacture and importation from France. England and Germany supply all that is sold in the United States. The fact is, that vast capital and consummate skill are required to bring to perfection the varied operations which transform into a splendid mirror the rough plate of glass, which, as in the iron trade, we might call pig-glass. The grinding, the polishing, and the silvering, require costly machinery, great ability to prevent breakage, and a vast expenditure of money.

This is not the case with common window-glass, which is now successfully manufactured on a large scale at Boston, Pittsburg, Baltimore, and in the State of New Jersey; but within the last few years French plate-glass has superseded the use of common window-glass in the mansions and dwelling-houses in the finer quarters of New York and our other great cities.

Rough glass, for skylights and tiles, of one or two inches, are manufactured in France, and are in great demand here. With some openings in the floors, covered by these tiles, dark basements can now be used, even in retail trade, which were formerly fit only as a place to store empty boxes and discarded furniture.

But we have lately seen glass, fragile as it is, put to a new use—that of building. The walls of some of our saloons have, of late years, seemed made of glass."

After an appropriate allusion to the construction of buildings chiefly of glass, in which, however, the splendid palm-house at Kew, and the Conservatory at Chatsworth, are ignored as buildings of considerable extent, chiefly of glass, and erected previous to our Great Exhibition building, the writer thus concludes his paper:—"We cannot but thank the Almighty for teaching man to transform the apparently worthless sand and soda into a material so brilliant, transparent, and useful, that the poets of all days have made it the theme of their most beautiful comparisons,—even the inspired prophet employing it again and again in his description of the heavenly Jerusalem,—'A sea of glass like crystal is before the throne of God;' and, further on, 'The sons of God stand on this sea of glass mingled with fire; and the city itself is of pure gold like to clear glass, and the streets as it were transparent glass.'"

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Boston.—The extensive alterations and repairs of the old parish church of Boston are being gradually developed. A new east window has been lately put in, and the south porch, vaulting, &c. completed.

Ardleigh.—A new school-room, capable of accommodating seventy children, has been just erected on Crockleford Heath, Ardleigh, at the sole expense of the wife of Mr. Gurdon Rebow, of Wivenhoe Park, for the gratuitous education of the children of the parishes of Ardleigh, Bromley, Elmstead, and Greenstead. On Tuesday, in last week, the school was opened. A new residence adjoins the school-room.

Marlow.—On 13th ult. the new church at Great Marlow, Bucks, was consecrated by the Bishop of Oxford. This church, which is in the Middle Pointed style, with chancel, nave, north aisle, and chapel, is built of flint and Bath stone. The architect is Mr. Scott, the builder Mr. Bond. The building will accommodate 500 persons.

Coatham, near Stockton-on-Tees.—The first stone of a new church at Coatham was laid by Mrs. Newcomen, of Kirkleatham Hall, Cleveland, on the 23rd ult. The church, which is to contain 550 sittings, and is in the Early Decorated style, is to be built at the expense of Mrs. Newcomen. Messrs. Coe and Goodwin, of London, are the architects.

Leighton Buzzard.—Tenders for the restoration of the spire and roofs of the church were received by the churchwardens on Saturday week. They were as follows:—Messrs. Irons and Ashton, Aylesbury, 565*l.*; Mr. John Herbert Raunds, 450*l.*; Mr. Wing, Bedford,

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